phase out several Regional Stations of ICAR Institutions including the Regional Station at Kannara in Kerala, considering its relevance, since similar research work is being carried out at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) Regional Stations located at Kayamkulam in Kerala and Vittal in Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala requested for review of this decision.

(c) the matter was re-examined by the competent authority and after taking into account all facts into consideration it was decided to phase out the Centre.

Rural Indebtedness

3204. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the dimension and prevalence of rural indebtedness in India/States;

(b) the total number of suicides committed by farmers due to indebtedness, during the last ten years/till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether the National Commission on Farmers has made by recommendations in this context; and

(e) if so, the follow up action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the National Sample Survey Organization Report No. 498 on Indebtedness of Farmer Households, 48.6 percent of households were reported to be indebted at All India Level. State-wise details are given in Statement I (*See* below).

(b) State-wise and year-wise information on number of suicide by farmers as received from the respective State Government are at Statement-II (*See* below). Indebtedness has been reported as one of the major reason for suicide by farmers.

(c) Details of the corrective measures taken by the Government are at Statement III (*See* below).

(d) The National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has, *inter-alia*, recommended expansion of the outreach of the formal credit system, lowering of rate of interest on crop loan to 4%, restructuring of micro finance into livelihood finance and moratorium on debt recovery and waiver of interest on loan in distress hotspots and during calamities.

(e) A conference of State Agriculture Ministers was convened on 22nd December, 2006 to discuss the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) and the revised Draft National Policy for Farmers as suggested by NCF. There was broad consensus among the States on the revised Draft National Policy for Farmers. Based on the feed back received in the meeting, a Note alongwith a "Draft National Policy for Farmers" has been submitted to the Committee of Secretaries (COS) set up for the purpose in the Cabinet Secretariat.

Statement-I

Estimated number of rural households, and total and indebted farmer Households in each State

State	Estimated number of rural households (00)	Estimated numbers of farmers households (00)	Estimated numbers of indebted farmer households (00)	Percentage of farmer households indebted
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	31474	19445	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu & Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21946	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	36098	54.8
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghalaya	3401	2543	103	4.1
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	605	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	2214199	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Groups of UTs	2325	732	372	50.8
ALL INDIA:	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Statement-II

Cases of suicide by farmers in States as reported by the State Governments

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07 (upto 31.3.2007)	150

1	2	3	4
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto 20.3.2007)	243
3.	Maharashtra	2003	173
		2004	622
		2005	577
		2006	2329
		2007 (upto February, 2007)	239
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upto March 07)	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841
		2007 (upto 31.1.2007)	13
7.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006	1

N.B. The number of suicide reported by the State Government of Orissa, Goa and Delhi is nil. No report has been received from other remaining States/UTs.

Statement- III

Details of corrective measures taken by Govt. regarding rural indebtedness

The Government is concerned about dependence of farmers on informal sources of credit including private money lenders for meeting their credit requirements and has taken several measures for facilitating adequate availability of institutional credit. Some of the important initiatives are:—

(i) In order to improve the flow of institutional credit and mitigate the distressing situation of farmers due to the problem of indebtedness,

the Government of India on 18.6.2004 announced a special farm credit package. The package envisages that credit to agriculture sector will double in next three years. Following are the highlights of this announcement:-

- Credit flow to agriculture sector to increase @ 30% per year.
- The branches of Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks to be energized to enhance the flow of agricultural credit.
- Under special agricultural credit plan, at least 100 new farmers should be financed at each rural and semi urban branches during the current year, resulting in enrolling about 50 lakh new borrowers.
- Provide credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees.
- Debt restructuring and relief for:
  - * Farmers in distress
  - * Farmers in arrears
  - * OTS for small and marginal farmers
  - * Loans to farmers for Redemption of debts from non-institutional lenders.
- Refinements in Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme and revisiting of Scales of Finance and realign the same to meet the realistic credit needs of the farmers.
- Facilitate formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees to provide credit to this category of farmers.

(ii) In the Union Budge for the year 2006-07, it has been announced that effective from Kharif 2006-07, farmers would receive crop loans up to a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakhs at 7% rate of interest and the Government would provide necessary interest subvention for this purpose. This policy has been continued in the year 2007-08 also.

(iii) Keeping in view the importance of flow of credit to agriculture, in particular to the smaller borrowers who may not have the necessary assets as collateral, the banks have been advised to waive margin/ security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000/-

(iv) The Government has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai to look into the problems of Agricultural indebtedness in its totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country.

Tackling global warming effects on agriculture

3205. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR or his Ministry has taken up any study or research to find out the impact of global warming on agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) how much agriculture land has been lost in the country due to global warming and what would be its impact in the coming future;

(d) whether erratic rainfall and frequent floods and droughts which have destroyed crops are the result of global warming; and

(e) if so, what strategy has been adopted by ICAR to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During Tenth Plan period ICAR has intimated a Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities. The Project aimed to study the impact of climate change on agriculture as also on bio-diversity, agroforestry, horticulture, livestock and fisheries.

(c) There are no reports indicating loss of agricultural land due to global warming in the country.

(d) There is no evidence that the frequent occurrences of floods or droughts are due to global warming.

(e) Not Applicable.